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Maine Man, Friend Back; Scoff at Red Spy Charge

By ROBERT B. CARR
(Globe Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK Oct. 20—Two Americans, released by the Russian Monday after being detained for seven weeks on spy charges, arrived here this afternoon and flatly denied reports they were agents for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Harvey C. Bennett, 26, of Bath, Me., and Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, of Ann Arbor, Mich., termed "absurd" reports that they had been asked by the C.I.A. to report on conditions in Russia.

"We had gone to Russia only to become more acquainted with the language and the people," said Bennett.

He graduated last January from the University of California, where he majored in Russian.

Kaminsky, who majored in Russian at the University of Michigan, insisted they were on a sightseeing tour of the Soviet Union and innocent of "any activities incompatible with those of a regular tourist."

He denied that any of the photographs or notes he had taken for a book constituted

any violation of Soviet security.

One of the notes, he said, was the tentative title of his book: "The Soviets Talk, Peace and Prepare for War."

"I still don't think that the title is far fetched," he said.

The two men held tearful reunions with loved ones shortly after the Swissair plane touched down at Idlewild Airport.

Bennett's pretty wife, Rene, 2, rushed into his arms.

"Harv, Harv . . . it's really you," she sobbed.

She drove here from Maine last night, leaving their three children, Valeria, 2, Clint, 1, and Pamela, 8 months, with her parents.

Kaminsky was greeted by a close friend Airielle Kuhn, 25, of Grosse Pointe, Mich., and her mother, Mrs. Frank Kuhn, who flew here from Detroit this morning for the reunion.

Bennett said they had been followed by Soviet agents after their expulsion from Russia.

"I'm sure they kept trailing us while we were in Vienna and Zurich," he said.

The Russians "were most friendly toward us until they learned that we were Americans," said Bennett.

"Then they would ask: 'Why is it that you Americans are looking for war.'"

The two were arrested as they were about to leave Russia for Vienna Aug. 25 on the last leg of the month-long tour and were held incommunicado until after Kaminsky's spy trial last week.

Bennett said he was required to testify at Kaminsky's trial "but I didn't testify against him."

Mrs. Bennett said she has made no immediate plans. "It's all up to Harvey as to whether we stay in New York for a while or go home."

Kaminsky said he plans a long rest before starting his teaching job at Purdue next Fall.

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Confined in Hotel

Bennett, held as a material witness, said he was confined to his hotel room and kept under constant guard.

"The Russians allowed me the equivalent of 25 cents a day for food, and you can't buy much food for that, even in Russia," he related.

He said he was refused the use of the telephone.

It wasn't until arriving in Vienna Monday that he learned the State Department had been pressing Russian officials to learn of their whereabouts.

And it wasn't until he arrived here that he learned from newsmen that his wife had sent a personal appeal in a telegram to Premier Khrushchev to find them.

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